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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER
EL HADY, NABIL M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2154	6

DATE MAILED: 12/10/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/664,858

Applicant(s)

TAMAYAMA, KEN

Examiner

Nabil M El-Hady

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 September 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

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1. Claims 1-19 are pending in this application.
2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-6, 8-13, and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Horisawa et al. (WO99/34594), hereafter "Horisawa".

4. Horisawa is cited by the applicant in IDS paper No. 5, files 5/19/2003.

5. As to claims 1 and 8, Horisawa discloses the invention as claimed including an information processing apparatus and method (Figs. 1, 7, and abstract), comprising: receiving means for receiving one of a plurality of types of information processed by a plurality of different methods (3, Figs. 1 and 7); determination means for determining one of the methods for the type of information received by said receiving means (the data stream is subjected to a predetermined signal processing to output an A/V signal, see abstract); storage means for storing a plurality of programs corresponding to the methods (inherent in a storage unit and adapted to perform a dedicated signal processing for each of communication media, see abstract); and a processing circuit for processing the type of information received by said receiving means by reading a program corresponding to the determined method, the read program being one of the stored programs (common processing unit 5 of Figs. 1 and 7, for

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performing common signal processing for a plurality of kinds of communication media, see abstract).

6. As to claim 15, the claim is rejected for the same reason as claims 1 and 8 above. In addition, a computer-readable recording medium containing a program for controlling an apparatus to execute the above method steps, is inherent in Horisawa's disclosure.

7. As to claims 2 and 9, Horisawa discloses changing said plurality of programs in accordance with the information received (inherent in a storage unit and adapted to perform a dedicated signal processing for each of communication media, see abstract).

8. As to claims 3, 10 and 16, Horisawa discloses the types of information are transport streams (inherent in the abstract).

9. As to claims 4 and 11, Horisawa discloses performing a process for converting by the circuit means the format of a transport stream as the type of information received by said receiving means into a different transport stream format (the data stream is subjected, in the common processing unit 5, to a predetermined signal processing to output an A/V signal, see abstract).

10. As to claims 5, 12, and 17, Horisawa discloses the types of information are multiplexed signals composed of images, sounds, and data (inherent in the abstract, and Fig. 7).

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11. As to claims 6, 13, and 18, Horisawa discloses performing a process for separating a multiplexed signal as the type of information received by said receiving means (Fig. 7; and common processing unit 5 of Figs. 1 and 7, for performing common signal processing for a plurality of kinds of communication media, see abstract).

12. Claims 1-4, 8-11, and 15-16 are further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Williams et al. (US 6,411,735), hereafter "Williams"

13. As to claims 1 and 8, Williams discloses the invention as claimed including an information processing apparatus and method (Fig. 1), comprising: receiving means for receiving one of a plurality of types of information processed by a plurality of different methods (10, Fig. 1; col. 4, line 66 to col. 5, line 5); determination means for determining one of the methods for the type of information received by said receiving means (col. 4, lines 45-55; 20, Fig. 1; and col. 5, lines 5-11); storage means for storing a plurality of programs corresponding to the methods (30, Fig. 1; and col. 5, lines 13-21); and a processing circuit for processing the type of information received by said receiving means by reading a program corresponding to the determined method, the read program being one of the stored programs (41, Fig. 1; and 21-27).

14. As to claim 15, the claim is rejected for the same reason as claims 1 and 8 above. In addition, a computer-readable recording medium containing a program for controlling an apparatus to execute the above method steps, is inherent in Williams's disclosure.

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15. As to claims 2 and 9, Williams discloses changing said plurality of programs in accordance with the information received (col. 5, lines 19-27).

16. As to claims 3, 10 and 16, Williams discloses the types of information are transport streams (col. 4, line 66 to col. 5, line 5).

17. As to claims 4 and 11, Williams discloses performing a process for converting the format of a transport stream as the type of information received by said receiving means into a different transport stream format (col. 5, lines 19-27).

18. Claims 1,2, 8, 9, and 15 are further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Creswell et al. (US 6,445,783), hereafter "Creswell".

19. As to claims 1 and 8, Creswell discloses the invention as claimed including an information processing apparatus and method (120, 125, Fig. 1; Fig. 2; and abstract), comprising: receiving means for receiving one of a plurality of types of information processed by a plurality of different methods (col. 1, lines 41-42; col. 2, lines 28-33; col. 3, lines 6-8; and col. 4, lines 42-43); determination means for determining one of the methods for the type of information received by said receiving means (col. 1, lines 49-51; col. 3, lines 44-46); storage means for storing a plurality of programs corresponding to the methods (125 of Fig. 1; and col. 1, lines 41-43); and a processing circuit for processing the type of information received by said receiving means by reading a program corresponding to the determined method, the read program being one of the stored programs (col. 1, lines 51-56; col. 3, lines 1-3; col. 3, line 65 to col. 4, line 1-5).

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20. As to claim 15, the claim is rejected for the same reason as claims 1 and 8 above. In addition, a computer-readable recording medium containing a program for controlling an apparatus to execute the above method steps, is inherent in Creswell's disclosure.

21. As to claims 2 and 9, Creswell discloses changing said plurality of programs in accordance with the information received (col. 4, lines 44-47).

22. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

23. Claims 7, 14, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sokawa et al. (EP0794663), hereafter "Sokawa".

24. Sokawa is cited by the applicant in IDS paper No. 5, filed 5/19/2003.

25. As to claims 7, 14, and 19, Sokawa discloses processing signals of different broadcast systems (that may include a satellite broadcast signal, a terrestrial broadcast signal, a community antenna television signal, and a signal input from an external unit) using a single signal processing circuit by only changing a program (col. 3, lines 29-36). Sokawa discloses a memory containing a microprogram that specifies a decoding process algorithm, programmable

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operation means receiving a vides signal and executing the video decoding process according to the microprogram, and a microprogram unit controlling transmission of the microprogram contained in the memory to the programmable operation means (co. 3, lines 45-53).

26. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Ishida (US 6,434,171); Hiroi (US 6,256,071); lee (US 6,373,527); Schweid et al. (US 6,549,658); Obtain (US 5,367,522); Takaashimizu et al. (US 6,185,228); Ishii et al. (US 5,675,789); Hsiao (US 5,848,137); Shimada (US 6,621,588); Johnson et al. (US 6,453,302); Mennie et al. (US 6,493,461).

27. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nabil M El-Hady whose telephone number is (703) 308-7990. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 - 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng-Ai T An can be reached on (703) 305-9678. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 746-7239.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



Nabil El-Hady, Ph.D., M.B.A.
Primary Patent Examiner
November 20, 2003